

**Happy New Year!**  
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**Montville Township  
 Public Schools™**  
**EDUCATE. INSPIRE. EMPOWER.**

## News & Updates - January 2019

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[www.montville.net](http://www.montville.net)

### Kindergarten Registration for September 2019 Opens January 7, 2019



Children who will be five years old by October 1, 2019 and are residents of Montville Township are eligible to enter kindergarten in the Montville Township Public Schools in September 2019. Online registration for kindergarten officially opened on Monday, January 7, 2019. Kindergarten registration will close on February 8, 2019. Parents are asked to register their children during this time frame to allow the district to correctly anticipate staffing needs as the 2019-2020 district budget is prepared. Note: both on-line and in-person registration must be completed before Kindergarten screening begins. For the schedule of screening dates at each of the five MTPS elementary schools please see [Montville.net](http://Montville.net).

[Register for Kindergarten](#)



New Jersey  
 Student Learning Assessment - Science

**New Jersey  
 Science  
 Assessment to  
 Be Operational  
 in Spring 2019**

In the Spring of 2018 the New New Jersey Student Learning Assessment for Science (NJSLA-S) was field tested. In the Spring of 2019, this assessment will be operational for the first time. All states are required to administer a science assessment and to report the results to the Federal government under the provisions of the *Every Student Succeeds Act*. The New Jersey Department of Education has determined that, based on the results from the 2018 field test and

input from local school districts, the amount of time allotted for the assessment in grade 5 will be increased by 15 minutes per unit.

	Number of Units	Time per Unit	Total Testing Time
Grade 5 NJSLA-S	4	45 minutes	3 hours
Grade 8 NJSLA-S	4	45 minutes	3 hours
Grade 11	4	60 minutes	4 hours

Schools may administer a maximum of two units per day.

The assessment will be divided into the following Reporting Groups for the Science and Engineering Practices:

Investigating Practices	Sense-making Practices	Critiquing Practices
1. Asking Questions and Defining Problems	1. Developing and Using Models	1. Engaging in Argument from Evidence
2. Planning and Carrying Out Investigation	2. Analyzing and Interpreting Data	2. Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communication of Information
3. Using Mathematical and Computational Thinking	3. Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions	

Parent Information Guides, which provide helpful information about the NJSLA-S should be distributed in February.

**Montville Township  
Board of Education to  
Recognize 2018-2019  
Teachers of the Year**



At their meeting on February 5, 2019, the Montville Township Board of Education will recognize the following Teachers and Education Service Professionals of the Year. The recipients were selected by a school-based committee comprised of teachers, administrators and parents.

**Teachers of the Year**

Cedar Hill - Lisa Accardi  
 Hilldale - Roxanne Larangeira  
 Valley View - Kristin Warfield  
 William Mason - Scott Brennan  
 Woodmont - Maria Aiello  
 Lazar - Caitlin Cardinale  
 MTHS - Sharon Pflug-Moench

**Education Service Professionals of the Year**

Cedar Hill - Sudhamayee Dhamodharan  
 Hilldale - Debbie Mancino  
 Valley View - Leonard Saunders  
 William Mason - Shannon Kuratli  
 Woodmont - Pattiann Olivieri  
 Lazar - Deb Meenan  
 MTHS - Kim Garcia-Cunha

**Princeton University Distinguished Secondary School Teacher**

Stefanie San Filippo

***Bits and Pieces....***

Congratulations to Montville Township High School! For the second consecutive year MTHS has been named to the [AP Honor Roll](#). Montville was one of 39 New Jersey districts and 373 in the U.S. and Canada to be recognized for increasing the number of students participating in AP since 2016 while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

Students at Valley View Elementary School participated in a Pajama Day Fundraiser, organized by Miss Profeta, and raised over \$1,000 to support the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Hilldale Elementary School second grade students are providing pajamas for at-risk students through Scholastic's Great Pajama Drive.

William Mason Elementary School held a dress down day for raise funds for the Montville Township First Aid Squad.

**Parent Tips - Supporting "Mentally Strong Kids"**

In an online article published on [www.success.com](http://www.success.com), author and psychotherapist Amy Morin offers guidance for parents in supporting the development of "mentally strong kids." Based on ideas from her book, *13 Things Mentally Strong Parents Don't Do*,

Morin argues that children will benefit if their parents avoid the following behaviors:

**DON'T:**

1. Condone a victim mentality - children need to learn that disappointment, failure and rejection are things that they will encounter throughout their lives. Students need to learn how to take positive action in the wake of these types of challenges rather than feel self-pity.
2. Parent out of guilt - Don't back down after you have said "no" or allow you to be "guilted" into giving in to your child's demands.
3. Make your kids the center of the universe - While your children can certainly be a top priority, when they become your sole focus, they can develop a sense of entitlement which will likely not serve them well in their adult life. Teach you child that they are important, but not necessarily the most important person in the world. Help them to develop a sense of empathy so that they can acknowledge what others are experiencing.
4. Allow fear to dictate your choices - Be a role model that encourages your children to face their fears. Don't be overprotective. Allow them to experience the difficult things which will help them develop some grit.
5. Give your kids power over you - When you treat you child like an equal, it harms their development. Show them that you value their opinions and give them choices when appropriate. Help them to understand the leadership role that parents have in a family and

that not all family decisions can or should be made through a democratic process. Kids need to learn how to take directives and that sometimes they need to do things they don't want to do.

6. Expect perfection - Set reasonable, attainable expectations for your child. If perfection is the only outcome that will be tolerated, children may decide there's not use in trying. Support students in becoming a little better every day, but not perfect.

7. Let your children avoid responsibility - It's important for children to have some household responsibilities. Assign them some chores, have them make their own lunch, hold them accountable for remembering the materials that the need for school.

8. Shield you kids from pain - Hardship is simply a part of life, so don't shield your child from hurt feelings and difficult times. In order to become resilient adults, students need the opportunity to experience sadness, anxiety, and embarrassment. Your role as a parent is to help them gain confidence as they cope with these disappointments and make sure that they are surmountable.

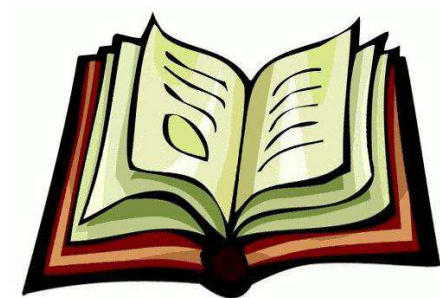
9. Feel responsible for your kids' emotions - teach your kids how to manage their moods. When they learn how to break a bad mood or some alternative activities when they are bored, you are helping them to become independent adults.

10. Prevent your kids from making mistakes - Preventing mistakes for your child also work against the development of their independence. There will be failure in their lives, so help them learn how to effectively cope with it by allowing them to experience it at a time in their lives when you can help support them in bouncing back. If you don't provide this opportunity to your child at an early age, they will experience failure after they leave home and not have the benefit of growing from it.

11. Confuse discipline with punishment - It's important for parents to appreciate the difference between punishment (which is meant to inflict suffering) and discipline (which is about teaching children to do better). Consequences that teach self-discipline are helpful in encouraging children to make better choices in the future.

12. Take shortcuts to avoid discomfort - Giving-in when your child whines or throws a temper tantrum or doing chores for them are a simple "in the moment" solution but it's better to stay the course and not modify your expectations. In doing this you model for your children that they are strong enough to reach their long-term goals without trying to take the easy way out.

13. Lose sight of your values - Make sure your priorities reflect your values. Instilling your values in your children gives them the needed strength to live meaningful lives. Be a good role model. Establish healthy habits, like practicing mindfulness and gratitude. Give up the unhealthy habits that might be holding you back. Challenge your family to grow mentally stronger together.



## Students Asked to Contribute Their Writing to Book

During the course of the 2018-2019 school year, Dr. Rene Rovtar, District Superintendent, is serving as the editor of a book that is being written collaboratively with district students in grades Kindergarten through twelve.

The book will contain the students' perspective and advice on a number of topics such as respect, kindness, gratitude, grit, courage and resilience. These are areas which form

the core of the district's character education program. The superintendent will gather input from students by visiting certain classes and by engaging in electronic dialogue with other students. The final work will be self-published and made available for purchase with proceeds going to the Montville Township Public Schools.

Students are asked to share their wisdom on questions such as:  
Why is it important for us to show respect to others?

When you have a bad experience or a bad day, how to you cope? How to you manage to get yourself through it?

When you are doing something really difficult, how do you convince yourself to continue when giving up would be so much easier?

Why would someone want to be kind?

What gives you courage to do something that you might be afraid to do?

Students wishing to contribute to the book should email their writing to:

[Rene.Rovtar@montville.net](mailto:Rene.Rovtar@montville.net)



**10:30 AM** Walk for Acceptance-Respect-Kindness  
Participants meet at the BOE Building 86 River Rd.  
*Canned goods are requested as a donation to the Montville Kiwanis Food Pantry.*

Followed by refreshments and service projects at our local houses of worship.

Donations courtesy of:

*Red Barn Restaurant  
Montville Diner  
Jerusalem Restaurant of Livingston  
Junior's  
Kebab Paradise  
Shahi Kebab*

11 AM - 11:45 AM Holy Spirit Lutheran Church  
70 River Rd.

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM St. Pius X  
24 Changebridge Rd.

1 PM - 1:30 PM Pine Brook Jewish Center  
174 Changebridge Rd.

12:45 PM - 3:00 PM Jam-e-Masjid Islamic Center  
110 Harrison St. (Boonton)  
*\*Open from 12:45pm - 3:00pm*

*Please bring toothbrushes & toothpaste  
as donations for Syrian refugees*

***Doors open from 11 AM to 2 PM***

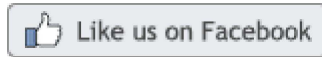
**#OMMLKDay2019**

**FREE FAMILY EVENT**



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